

## Chapter 2

# Israel: A Force for Good in the World



By sharing its experience, technologies and know-how with others, Israel has improved the lives of millions of people worldwide.

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## Key Points

- *Israeli-Developed Technologies:* From cell phone and computer technology to the latest medical procedures, Israeli-developed technologies are used every day around the globe.
- *Humanitarian Assistance Program:* Israel has one of the most sophisticated humanitarian assistance programs in the world, reaching the needy in countries near and far to provide critical aid.
- *Disaster Response:* Israel has used its vast disaster response experience to quickly assist countries impacted by natural disasters, terrorism, disease or war.
- *Agricultural Techniques:* Known for “making the desert bloom,” Israel has pioneered and shared its extensive agricultural techniques with the world.
- *Green Technologies:* Israel contributes to a cleaner world, advancing cutting-edge renewable energy and water technologies, and is the number one nation in the world in using recycled water.

## **The Important Role That Congress Can Play**

- Congress should continue to support Israel's efforts to provide humanitarian aid and share scientific research.
  - In its annual foreign aid bill, Congress should continue to fund programs that facilitate Israel's humanitarian efforts, such as the Middle East Regional Cooperation Program (MERC).
  - By providing additional funding for activities, Congress should build upon the remarkable achievements of U.S.-Israel binational foundations. The Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation (BARD), the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD) and the Binational Science Foundation (BSF) connect American and Israeli scientists in the development of agricultural breakthroughs and industrial technology. The BIRD Foundation launched a dedicated energy arm in 2007 to connect the countries in advanced research and development (R&D) into an array of energy and water technologies. Congress has supported the initiative with annual appropriations in the years since, matched dollar for dollar by Israel.
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## **Israeli High-Tech Contributions Revolutionize the World**

Israel's high-tech civil innovations have left an important mark on homes and businesses worldwide. From groundbreaking internet software to key environmental and medical innovations, Israel's reach has impacted many important aspects of human life.

## **Israel Provides Developmental and Humanitarian Assistance on a Global Scale**

Equipped with firsthand knowledge of the challenges that resource-poor countries face, Israel has provided aid to help stimulate growth and development in a myriad of countries. Before it had even established embassies in many world capitals, Israel sent experts abroad to teach developing nations how to upgrade medical facilities, improve schools and coax crops from arid land. Today, Israel has one of the most extensive foreign assistance programs in the world for a nation of its size.

Israel has provided critical on-the-ground assistance after numerous natural disasters, including the typhoon in the Philippines and the earthquake in Haiti. Israel sent humanitarian aid and equipment to New Orleans and the Eastern Seaboard for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, respectively. In 2014, Israel pledged the world's largest per-capita contribution to halt the spread of Ebola. The tiny country also sent fully equipped medical clinics to West Africa, along with medical specialists to operate them and train local health workers.

## **Israeli Technology Advances Key Agricultural Techniques**

Because Israel is 60 percent desert, its farmers and agricultural scientists have long focused on expanding both the yield and quality of crops, as well as making agriculture more efficient overall. Israeli techniques and technology, such as drip irrigation, have helped farmers around the globe. Now that Israel has gained experience cultivating arid environments, the Jewish state is helping others through a series of agriculture programs that include human capacity building, research cooperation, demonstration farms and agribusiness consulting centers.

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The Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation connects U.S. and Israeli researchers in the development of agricultural technologies with global significance. Created in 1977, BARD has funded more than 1,100 projects, investing roughly \$400 million in basic and applied science. Breakthroughs in arid land resource management, food safety and environmental protection represent just some of the many developments facilitated through BARD.

### **Israeli Doctors Develop Life-Saving Treatments and Drugs**

Throughout the Jewish state's history, Israeli doctors, scientists and researchers have produced countless medical advances that are improving the lives of millions worldwide. By encouraging advanced research and development, Israel has produced treatments for a variety of ailments. Some examples include:

- ExAblate – an ultrasound system that allows doctors to destroy tumors or other targets deep inside the body without surgery.
- Gelrin – an injectable, biosynthetic gel used to stimulate bone repair.
- PillCam – an ingestible video capsule that performs a minimally invasive endoscopy.
- ReWalk – a product that enables wheelchair users with lower-limb disabilities to walk, climb stairs and drive cars.
- ViaDerm Drug Delivery System – a pain-free, electronic applicator that pushes medication into the bloodstream through a patch.

### **Israel Contributes to a Cleaner World**

In an era of booming populations, shrinking resources and environmental degradation, Israel is a world leader in critical fields such as clean energy technologies and seawater desalination. As nations struggle to make the best use of their resources, Israel's cutting-edge technologies promise to improve the health and living standards of hundreds of millions across the globe. Israel's products make industry more efficient and minimize the environmental impact of human activities.

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